

(b) (6)

Portland, OR 97220

AUG 22 2016

EPA REGION 10
2497

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

Closing down parts of the Willamette River that run through the downtown Portland area to dredge the river bottom will create many more problems than it might solve. Shutting down the Willamette would be like shutting down everything. People come to this area all year to use the river, to fish or for events like the Boat Festival and fireworks celebrations. Once people learn this area will be shut down for a long time, they will just stop coming and go someplace else. Events will stop happening, waterfront businesses will be affected and jobs lost. Before I retired, I was in the restaurant business, so I know how important it is to make sure your customers keep coming back.

We need to be sure that the river is cleaned up, but it might be better to consider other options, like cleaning up a small portion of the river first. Those results could be looked at and then it could be decided what to do next. I've heard that a recent study even showed that the river was beginning to clean itself through its own natural processes. Giving that time to work is also a better idea.

The high cost of the EPA's plan for Portland residents and businesses is another consideration. We are already paying high taxes to support things like our roads and schools. We cannot financially support everything. This proposal should not be approved before getting additional input from locals who have a better understanding of how this could affect our community. Take our concerns seriously and listen to what we have to say.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)



August 19, 2016